

October 2009

VA National Acquisition Center's (NAC) FEDERAL SUPPLY SCHEDULE (FSS) MONTHLY E-NEWSLETTER

Providing world class healthcare products & services to the federal marketplace

Training Topic: Trade Agreements Act (TAA)

Due to concerns regarding unacceptable/dangerous items being imported from China, as well as other non-designated countries, the FSS Service is keeping a vigilant watch on what items are considered 'substantially transformed' from non-TAA countries and what can be done to prevent receiving items from non-TAA countries that have not met the definition of being substantially transformed. Please review the following website in order to view the designated countries under the TAA: <http://federalschedules.com/TAA-Designated-Countries.html?ps=Resources-and-Downloads&pps=Additional-Resources>.

Products offered under the Federal Supply Schedule (FSS) Program, which are end products of countries other than the United States or "Designated Countries" are not considered for award. A "Designated Country" is a World Trade Organization Government Procurement Agreement (WTO GPA) country, Free Trade Agreement (FTA) country, or a Least Developed Country or Caribbean Basin Country. Please be mindful that if a manufacturing company is located in the United States, it does not mean that all component parts of the offered items have the USA as a country of origin. This is particularly noteworthy since this appears to be where incorrect assessments can be made regarding the definition of substantially transformed.

When a company offers items that are manufactured in non-TAA approved countries and these items are being represented as 'substantially transformed,' a justification as to how this determination was made should be provided (this should be a complete and factual explanation of the manufacturing process, etc). If necessary, that justification should be in the form of an advisory ruling obtained from U. S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP). Requests for the advisory rulings should be submitted to: U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Valuation Dept., Special Programs Branch, Office of Regulations, 899 H Street NW, Washington, DC 20229. Please contact U.S. Customs and Border Protection at (202)325-0040 if you have any questions. Please review the following website in order to learn more about the United States Rules of Origin:

http://www.cbp.gov/linkhandler/cgov/trade/legal/informed_compliance_pubs/icp026.ctt/icp026.pdf.

IMPORTANT DATES

FSS Customer Training Schedule (Only Applicable to Government Agencies)

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| • Murfreesboro, TN – Oct 7 th
POC: Ms. Betty Benmark
Betty.Benmark@va.gov | • Phoenix, AZ – Oct 21 st & 22 nd
POC: Mr. Jim Woodring
Jim.Woodring@va.gov |
| • Brooklyn, NY – Nov 17 th & 18 th
POC: Ms. Christine Carballo
Christine.Carballo@va.gov | • Bronx, NY – Nov 19 th & 20 th
POC: Ms. Christina Katz
Christina.Katz@va.gov |

If you would like to attend a training session, schedule a new one, or request additional information, please contact Ms. Veronica Hazen at Veronica.Hazen@va.gov. Please note that the FSS Customer Training is **ONLY APPLICABLE TO GOVERNMENT AGENCIES**.

FSS Personnel will be attending the following conferences:

- Med-Trade – Atlanta, GA (Oct 12th – 15th)

RECENTLY AWARDED FSS CONTRACTS (AUGUST 2009)

Pharmaceutical, Dental, Patient Mobility, & X-Ray (Website:

<http://www1.va.gov/oamm/oa/nac/fsss/pharmfss.cfm>)

- Konsyl Pharmaceuticals: V797P-5118B (Small Pharmaceutical Business)
- WellSpring Pharmaceutical Corporation: V797P-5121B (Small Pharmaceutical Business)
- Beutlich LP Pharmaceuticals: V797P-5124B (Small Pharmaceutical Business)
- Upstate Pharma, LLC: V797P-5119B (Large Pharmaceutical Business)
- Axis Dental Corporation: V797P-3194M (Large Dental Business)
- Veterans Medical Supply, Inc.: V797P-3195M (Small, Veteran Owned Patient Mobility Business)
- Amresco Inc.: V797P-5125B (Small, Invitro Diagnostics & Regents Business)

Medical/Surgical Equipment (Website: <http://www1.va.gov/oamm/oa/nac/fsss/medequipsupfss.cfm>)

- ScriptPro USA, Inc.: V797P-4237B (Large Med/Surg Business)
- ErgoNurse: V797P-4242B (Small, Woman Owned Med/Surg Business)
- Gladden & Metz, Inc.: V797P-4227B (Small, Disadvantaged Med/Surg Business)
- Cleanwaste: V797P-4239B (Small Med/Surg Business)

Medical Professional & Laboratory Testing Services & Cost-Per-Test (Website:

<http://www1.va.gov/oamm/oa/nac/fsss/fssprotrain.cfm>)

- MedStaff Alternatives: V797P-7223A (Small Professional Medical Healthcare Services Business)
- PRN Consultants, Inc.: V797P-7228A (Small, Woman Owned Professional Medical Healthcare Services Business)
- Healthforce of Virginia: V797P-7229A (Small Professional Medical Healthcare Services Business)
- Stat Medical Services, Inc. DBA Choice Professional Resources: V797P-7231A (Small, Woman Owned Professional Medical Healthcare Services Business)

In order to obtain pricing information for all of the companies referenced above, please review the NAC Search Tool (<http://www1.va.gov/nac/index.cfm>) or GSA E-Library (<http://www.gsaelibrary.gsa.gov/ElibMain/scheduleList.do>).

If you have any questions, concerns, or would like to learn more about a specific topic and/or issue, please feel free to contact the FSS helpdesk at (708)786-7737 and/or helpdesk.ammhinfss@va.gov.